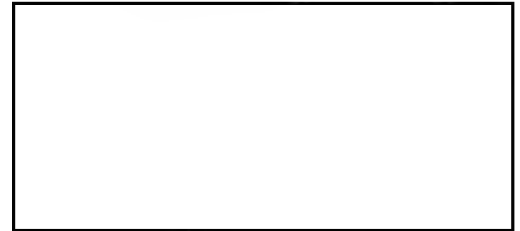


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C O N T E N T S

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SOUTH VIETNAM: The government is preparing for large-scale demonstrations by veterans' groups in Saigon during the next several days.

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[redacted] estimates that some 2,000 veterans will be involved, including many from outside the capital area. He expects the demonstrations to be considerably larger than the veterans' disruptive protests last year and believes that more self-immolations also will take place. [redacted] believes the veterans have close ties with student groups and with the An Quang Buddhists and that Vice President Ky is supporting the protests as part of his campaign against President Thieu's election policy.

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[redacted] apparently fears that the demonstrations might get out of hand. He expressed concern that mass support for the veterans might develop, and went so far as to suggest that the country's constitutional system was in danger and that a military tribunal might possibly emerge.

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The government plans to try to persuade groups of veterans and the population not to support the demonstrations and will make arrests only when absolutely necessary. Saigon police forces and military police are being fully mobilized to deal with the veterans, and some military units will be held in reserve in the event the police prove inadequate.

In the past the government has acted with considerably greater restraint when dealing with protesting veterans than it has with other agitators. It probably is still concerned that elements of the military might view the protests by their former comrades with some sympathy. [redacted]

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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY: Yesterday's meeting between East and West German negotiators Kohl and Bahr broke up after a half hour and no date was set for resumption.

East German unwillingness to accept a formula to overcome differences on the common German text of the quadripartite Berlin agreement endorsed by Pankow earlier this month prevented discussion of implementation of the agreement with respect to access to Berlin. Parallel talks between West Berlin and East Germany set for yesterday to discuss West Berlin visits to East Berlin and East Germany and territorial exchanges had been postponed by the West on Monday in the expectation that there would be no break in the impasse.

For the present, Bonn likely will attempt to maintain pressure on the East Germans by refusing to enter into substantive talks pending resolution of the textual issue. However, in view of the Soviet unwillingness to intervene with the East Germans on this issue

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the West Germans are likely to concentrate on some compromise measure to bypass the issue.

The East Germans are maintaining that Bonn's insistence on prior agreement on a common German text is irrelevant because only the English, French, and Russian texts of the quadripartite agreement are binding. Pankow insists that West German foot-dragging is obstructing the rapid conclusion of the second, inter-German phase of the Berlin talks and stands in sharp contrast to its own "constructive proposals" for inter-German treaties. Running throughout Pankow's public commentary on the Berlin agreement and on the inter-German negotiations is the theme that East Germany is a sovereign state meriting international recognition, a concept which the East Germans have felt compelled to reinforce in the wake of the reception given to Chancellor Brandt by Brezhnev last week and their joint communiqué, which mentioned only equal relations between the two German states.

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